# GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
# COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
# LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2079
ANSWERED ON:05.03.2003
INTERNET SERVICE PROVIDER LICENCES
NANDIPAKU VENKATASWAMY

**Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:**

(a) the number of companies granted Internet Services Provider (ISP) licencesin the country alongwith the number of people who have subscribed to the internet facility till date;

(b) whether the band width presently available is sufficient to cater to the growing demands of internet traffic in the country;

(c) if not, whether Internet Service Providers have been permitted to obtain band width from foreign satellites and establish International Gateways for internet traffic;

(d) if so, the number of companies which has obtained band width facility; and

(e) the extent to which the additional band width is likely to ease the demand?

## Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY(SHRIMATI S MAHAJAN)

(a) There are 340 companies, including private and public sector companies, having 395 Internet Service Provider (ISP) licences as on 28.02.2003. Information regarding number of Internet subscribers is received from the ISPs quarterly. There were 37,20,802 Internet subscribers as on 31.12.2002.

(b)to (e): Sir, International band width presently available is adequate to cater to the growing demands of Internet traffic in the country. Also the Government has permitted ISPs to set up International Gateways for Internet using foreign satellites and submarine cable mediums after taking security clearance. As on date, 24 ISPs have been permitted to commission 55 International Gateway for Internet using foreign satellites. This will further ease the availability for International bandwidth in the country.